

HB 1247 -- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

Sponsor: Sater

By October 28, 2010, this bill requires the Department of Social Services to apply for a federal waiver from the United States Department of Health and Human Services to modify the eligibility requirements for the Missouri Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program to:

(1) Reduce the lifetime eligibility limits for recipients from five years to two years and require beneficiaries subject to any work requirements to be employed at the time of receiving any TANF benefits;

(2) Establish a cash diversion program for unemployed applicants whose TANF benefits are subject to work requirements. The department must offer job assistance services for up to three months to unemployed applicants; and if the applicant is using the services, he or she will be eligible to receive up to three monthly payments equal to the amount the applicant would be eligible to receive if he or she was a TANF recipient; and

(3) Establish a cap on TANF cash benefits for recipients that is based on the number of children in the recipient's family. Additional cash benefits will not be awarded to a recipient in the event of a child's birth after an initial award has been granted, except if a child is born as a result of rape or incest. The department must offer family planning services to all TANF cash benefit recipients.